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J.N

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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LM31/0608

EXAMINER

BELLA, M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2721

35

DATE MAILED: 06/08/99

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

**Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks**



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This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.  
COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

**OFFICE ACTION SUMMARY**

☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on March 22, 1999

☐ This action is FINAL.

☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 D.C. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 month(s), or thirty days, whichever is longer, from the mailing date of this communication. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. (35 U.S.C. § 133). Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

**Disposition of Claims**

☒ Claim(s) 3, 4, 7, 38, 40-50 is/are pending in the application.

Of the above, claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

☒ Claim(s) 3, 4, 7 is/are allowed.

☒ Claim(s) 38, 40-50 is/are rejected.

☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.

☐ Claims \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

☐ See the attached Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948.

☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is ☐ approved ☐ disapproved.

☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

☒ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☒ All ☐ Some\* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\*Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

**Attachment(s)**

☒ Notice of Reference Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

**- SEE OFFICE ACTION ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES -**

Art Unit: 2721

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Arguments***

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 38, 40-50 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 38, 40-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Usami (5,696,840) in view of Nagasaki et al (5,153,730).

As to claim 38, Usami shows an image processing system, comprising;

a memory means for storing an image signal outputted from an image pickup means

(fig. 1, element 8 and col. 11, lines 25-29);

reproducing means for reproducing the image signal stored by the memory means (fig.

1, output of element 8);

producing a color correction table (i.e, color balance control) on the basis of a first

image signal (fig. 1, element 9);

Art Unit: 2721

a signal correcting means for correcting the color balance of a second image signal reproduced by the reproducing means on the basis of the color balance control data, the second image signal being different than the first signal (col. 2, lines 35-53, reusing the system).

Usami does not disclose a detachable memory. Nagasaki teaches producing correction data by Y-C separation, filtering and the like, on the signal read from a memory card 34 and supplied to it through a common bus (col. 6, lines 31-57). A memory card being detachable for increased memory capacity and a transportable memory. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill for Usami to use a detachable memory in place of attached memory, because Nagasaki teaches memory cards are used to download image data to be corrected for increased memory capacity and transportable memory.

As to claim 40, Usami further shows holding means, ROM 13, for holding the reference information, signal processing means performing a processing on image signals other than the image signal used to produce the reference information, on the basis of the reference information held by the holding means.

As to claim 41, Usami further shows designating means (CPU 7) for designating a reference signal from among image signals stored in the memory.

As to claim 42, Usami further shows designating means designates correcting data on the basis of the reference signal (col. 2, lines 45-50).

As to claim 43, Usami further shows, holding means, CPU 7 and ROM 13, for holding the correction data, signal processing means performing a processing on image signals other

Art Unit: 2721

than the reference signal on the basis of the correction data held by the holding means (see col. 2, lines 45-50).

As to claim 44, Usami further shows a displaying means for displaying an image associated with an image signal outputted from the signal processing means (fig. 1, monitor 12).

As to claims 45-50, they recite on what is discussed above regarding claims 38, 40-44.

4. Claims 7, 3 and 4 are allowable over the prior art of record.

5. The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Control information is copied from second memory means to the first memory means when the second memory means is removed from the apparatus. When third memory means is attached to the apparatus, control information copied from second memory means to first memory means is copied from first memory means to third memory means, in combination with other limitations of claim is not shown or suggested by the prior art.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Matthew C. Bella, whose telephone number is (703) 308-6829. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM. The examiner can also be reached on alternate Fridays.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Leo H. Boudreau, can be reached on (703) 305-4706. The fax number for this Group is (703) 306-5406.

Serial Number: 08/818,245

Page 5

Art Unit: 2721

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-4700.

MCB

June 2, 1999

**MATTHEW BELLA**  
**PATENT EXAMINER**

*Matthew C. Bella*